STI BULLETIN

A publication for users of the NASA scientific and technical information program office

Journal Citations Now Being Added to the Database

After a lengthy hiatus, open journal literature citations are again being added to the STI Database. The expanded aerospace literature coverage is especially welcome for NASA scientists and engineers who may not have time to survey all of the new literature available in the field. The current source of these citations is Engineering International, but NASA CASI is seeking other sources to continue to provide the most comprehensive aerospace database in the world.

In addition to the new open literature sources, the STI Program Office provides access to ARIN, the Aerospace Research Information Network. ARIN is a listing of more than 400,000 books on aerospace and related subjects held in the NASA center libraries. Combined with the new, RECONplus search engine on the STI Database and the recent addition of new journal literature, the aerospace researcher has an enormous resource on the desktop.

Access to the STI Database requires a password that is available from NASA CASI. Open literature citations are also available in the CASI TRS, and in E-SCAN. Both these products are accessible without a password from the STI homepage at **http://www.sti.nasa.gov**. Look inside this and future issues of the *STI Bulletin* for RECONplus Tips and Techniques to help you refine your search strategies.

RECONplus Gets New Trouble Shooter

A longtime veteran of NASA CASI has taken over a new post as RECONplus implementation head. Eric Vogel, team leader of the User Services section has taken the additional responsibility of RECONplus head.

In this new capacity he is charged with developing a problem tracking system, establishing priorities for programming staff, coordinating problem solutions with users, and looking for improvements in the system.

"RECON was the first database retrieval system and a lot of excitement was generated by its implementation. People could actually search for information based on strategies they developed. Of course, people forget that in order to use RECON, very complicated commands had to be given on specially hardwired machines. And implementation of that old system had its ups and downs, too. RECONplus is simpler to learn and use for a wider audience, it is available via the Internet access with a password, and has online documentation, Help Desk access, and document ordering capability."

If you have any comments or problems to report about the new system, the NASA Access Help Desk will answer your questions. Send e-mail to **help@sti.nasa.gov** or call 301-621-0390.

RECONplus News Screens—Another Feature

Getting information about improvements, changes, and new files on RECONplus is even easier with the installation of the RECONplus News Screen. The RECONplus News Screen was added at the end of the summer as a option in the basic RECONplus menu screen.

To access, simply press "N" or move your cursor to the "NEWS" option on the basic menu. As system news is being made, the information will be added to the new screens.

All news about RECONplus—system revisions and updates, maintenance schedules, newly identified common problems and solutions, notices—will be posted here, in order by the most recent news posting. Don't forget to check News every time you log on to RECONplus. The News Screen is another service of the STI Program Office to help you work better. As always, if you have any comments or questions, send them to **help@sti.nasa.gov**.

RECONplus *Tips and Techniques*

Selecting NASA Thesaurus Terms

There are two special indexes for controlled vocabulary terms, CTMJ (Controlled Terms - Major) and CT (Controlled Terms). The CTMJ contains only *NASA Thesaurus* terms assigned at the major level of importance to the document, while the CT contains all terms, both major and minor assignments. The following screens illustrate how—when either of these fields are entered on the command line or selected from the Field to Search panel, Index is selected at the Search Term Method panel, <**CTRL-L**> is pressed and a value is entered at the Jump In Index panel—the index is displayed in *Thesaurus* presentation with broader, narrower, and related terms and scope notes (see Figure 1).

Figure 1

Your access level determines the number of records (# Recs) within the database that you can view (see Figure 2). That number is displayed to the left of each term. *Thesaurus* terms that do not occur in the database or that your access level does not allow you to view and terms that are non-preferred, such as Fiber Bridging, have zero postings. Use, Scope Notes (SN), Broader Than (BT), Narrower Than (NT), and Related To (RT) indicators are also displayed to the left of the terms. Highlighting the SN area and pressing <**ENTER**> displays the full text of the scope note and definition.

Terms may be selected from the *Thesaurus* Terms panel by highlighting and pressing <**CTRL-G**>. The term will then be displayed in the Selected Terms panel. All terms in the Selected Terms panel are automatically connected with an OR (;) operator. Use <**CTRL-T**> to jump to a different section of the *Thesaurus* or use the UP and DOWN arrow keys to move within the screen. After several

screens, the phrase MORE TERMS will be displayed as the last entry. Press <**ENTER**> to retrieve more terms. When you are finished selecting terms, press <**ENTER**> to add the clause to your search. ◀
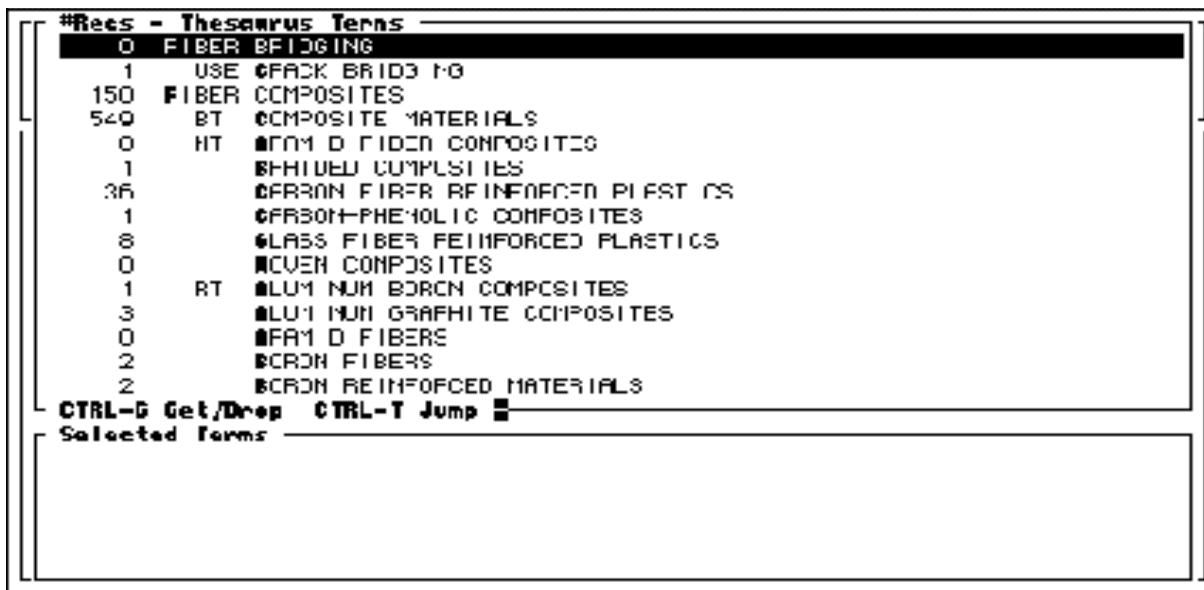

Figure 2

Internet *NASA Thesaurus* Use Reachs All Time High

Over the course of a year, the Internet version of the *NASA Thesaurus* (including its supplements) has generated over sixty percent of the total information requests received on the STI homepage. From September 1995 through August 1996, there were over a million and one-half 'lookups'. An average of 2505 users per month visited the *Thesaurus,* with approximately seventy percent of the usage coming from United States sources.
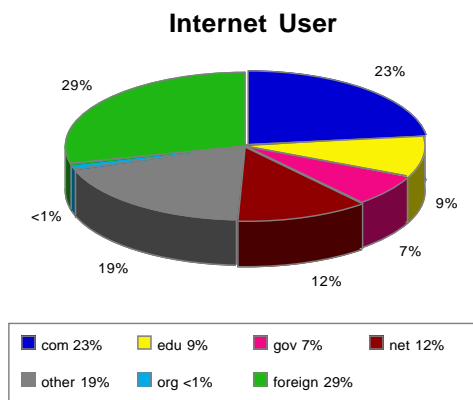
A look at the domestic usage indicates that almost a quarter (23%) of the lookups were from commercial (.com) sources with the aerospace community heavily represented by such companies as Boeing and the Lockheed Martin Corporation. At the same time, there was an unexpectedly wide range of companies using the *Thesaurus,* including such unlikely organizations as Aetna, Disney, Erols, and FedEx. Academics (.edu) made up about nine percent, while seven percent represented government sources (.gov, .mil), and network providers (.net) made up about twelve percent of the usage. This last domain probably represents the majority of the individual, or 'public' rather than organizational users. Nonprofit organizations (.org) made up less than one percent of the usage. A substantial number, nineteen percent, however, fell into the 'other' or 'unresolved' category. If a large number of these can be

Internet User

com 23% | edu 9% | gov 7% | net 12%
other 19% | org <1% | foreign 29%

resolved, the percentages for some of the categories mentioned above could change significantly.
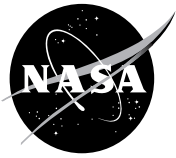
Foreign usage made up about twenty-nine percent of the total usage from eighty-eight countries (from Andorra to Zimbabwe). The English speaking countries of Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom make up the bulk, while other countries using the *Thesaurus* heavily are Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Sweden. Australians were, by far, the heaviest foreign users of the *NASA Thesaurus* on the Internet, with approximately sixteen percent of the total non-US lookups.

The existing *NASA Thesaurus* homepage (**http://www.sti.nasa.gov/nasa thesaurus.html**) contains the *Thesaurus* itself and the cumulative semiannual supplements. Our plans call for combining these two files into one and otherwise, enhancing the Internet site. ◀

You can contact the **NASA Access Help Desk** at (301) 621-0390, fax (301) 621-0134, e-mail at **help@sti.nasa.gov**, or write NASA Access Help Desk, NASA Center for AeroSpace Information, 800 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2934.

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

**Scientific and Technical
Information Program Office**
Center for AeroSpace Information

800 Elkridge Landing Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-2934

Is Your Mailing Label Correct ?

Please provide any changes below and return to:

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